



*Strengthening Rural Idaho*

# News

## STRATEGIC ISSUES

In August 2003, the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) Board of Directors established the following issues and activities as priorities for IRP action:

- Serve as "Champion" for Rural Idaho;
- Expand competitive access to domestic and international markets;
- Seek resolution of conflicts especially on environmental issues;
- Provide leadership training and development;
- Serve as 'One Stop Shop' including an update to the resource directory and creation of an inventory/electronic access/website to information on programs.

## Updates

We are in the process of updating the IRP mailing list to reach all of our partners with the traditional printed newsletters and regular e-mails. Please send us complete information (mailing address, phone, fax, e-mail) for yourself and anyone else that you think might be interested in IRP news. Contact Alfredo Soto at [asoto@idoc.state.id.us](mailto:asoto@idoc.state.id.us).

## News

IRP welcomes your newsletter contributions for upcoming events and activities. Your submissions will be printed on a space-available basis and should be sent to Sara Braasch at [sbraasch@irp.state.id.us](mailto:sbraasch@irp.state.id.us).

## IDAHO RURAL SUMMIT

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the first annual Idaho Rural Summit on **November 18 – 19, 2003 in Coeur d'Alene**. The Connect Idaho 2003 Conference will begin immediately after the Idaho Rural Summit concludes and run through Friday afternoon, November 21.

The Idaho Rural Summit will bring together rural leaders to assess current activities and brainstorm future action items for all of the partner agencies, elected officials and individuals involved in rural Idaho. The Idaho Rural Summit will begin with dinner on Tuesday, November 18 featuring a keynote speaker and IRP overview. The keynote speaker from the Federal Reserve Bank will not only cover economic trends but the social, cultural, educational and communal resources that can make or break rural communities.

The summit will continue all day on Wednesday, November 19, with presentations from Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Senator Mike Crapo along with updates on the Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy and Idaho Transportation Long Range Plan. An important part of the Wednesday, November 19 session will be breakout sessions where participants will review what has already happened and brainstorm what lies ahead for rural Idaho and what still needs to be done.

Call the Coeur d'Alene Resort today at 800-688-5253 to reserve your room at the great IRP nightly rate of \$56 (economy) or \$89 (upgrade). Reservations must be made by October 10 or market rates will be charged.

Registration for the Idaho Rural Summit and Connect Idaho Conference can be completed on line at [www.idahosbdc.org](http://www.idahosbdc.org). Idaho Rural Summit registration including all meals and speakers is \$75. Please note the registration deadlines are October 24 for the Idaho Rural Summit and October 10 for the Connect Idaho Conference.

Special Thanks to the 2003 Idaho Rural Summit Sponsors –Idaho Rural Partnership, INEEL/Bechtel BWXT Idaho, Idaho Small Business Development Center, and the U.S. Forest Service.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

Sara Braasch started in July 2003 as the new Executive Director of the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP). The IRP office is on the first floor of the Idaho Statehouse and Braasch is traveling extensively in Idaho to complete her duties. Prior to joining IRP, Braasch was the Executive Vice President of the Idaho Cattle Association and staffed Sen. Larry Craig in his Washington, DC office when he was chairman of the Senate Conservation, Forestry and Rural Development Sub Committee.

In addition to her work with IRP, Braasch is on the UI College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Advisory Board and a Board member for the Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment. Braasch is a graduate of Payette High School and received a bachelor's degree in Economics with honors from Albertson College of Idaho. Special thanks to Dwight Johnson who served as interim IRP director. Braasch can be reached at (208) 334-3131 or at [sbraasch@irp.state.id.us](mailto:sbraasch@irp.state.id.us).



Sara Braasch



## *Focus...* featuring Idaho success stories and partner agency activities.

### RURAL HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

*USDA Rural Development IDAHO*

Each person experiences the aging process differently. Some people are able to maintain lifelong health and independence, while others find that they face increasingly more difficult challenges to their abilities to take care of themselves. The difficulties that aging can bring are felt not only by elderly people but also by their children and grandchildren, making the question of how to address these issues one of intergenerational importance. Adding urgency to this question is the fact that America's elderly population is growing rapidly: the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 report shows that the proportion of people age 65 and older grew by 12 percent from 1990 to 2000 with a 25.7% increase in persons between the ages of 80-84 and a 21.1% increase in those ages 74-79.

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) of USDA Rural Development recognizes the importance of providing rural seniors with a wide range of living options. We invest heavily in programs that help elderly people live with as much independence and dignity as possible. These include the Section 504 loan and grant programs, which make vital home repairs for very-low-income seniors.



A grateful USDA participant comes home.

#### **SECTION 504 LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS**

The Section 504 Loan and Grant programs allow elderly people with very low incomes to maintain their independence by remaining in their own homes. The loan program is available to rural residents of any age with a very-low income. The loans are offered at 1% interest. Loan funds can be used to make major home repairs or update the home with new carpeting, paint etc. The maximum amount you can borrow under the Section 504 Loan program is \$20,000. The grant program is available exclusively to very-low-income rural seniors that cannot afford to repay the loan. The grant funds can only be used for major repairs to remove health and safety hazards. For example, removing electrical and fire hazards, replacing roofing, installing or improving water and wastewater disposal systems and installing insulation or new heating systems. In 2002, the Section 504 loan program loaned \$291,000 to Idaho homeowners while the Section 504 grant program provided \$326,000 to very low-income seniors in the state. To qualify for a grant individuals must be age 62 or older. Grants are limited to a lifetime total of \$7,500 and are often combined with loans at an interest rate of 1% to increase the amount of dollars available for repairs. To get more details on this program contact the USDA Rural Development State Office at 1-800-632-5991 and ask for the county office closest to you.

#### **INSERT: *Workforce Training Funds for Rural Counties***

The insert in this newsletter provides information on Idaho's Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF), an economic development tool that provides financial resources for new employee skill training to expanding Idaho businesses.

Governor Kempthorne has added a significant rural component to the WDTF to increase the usability of this resource by employers in rural Idaho communities. For more information see "Job Training Resources" at [www.idahoworks.org/employers.shtml](http://www.idahoworks.org/employers.shtml) or call (208) 332-3570, ext. 3327.

#### **TOURISM TOUR 2003 COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU**

The Idaho Tourism Division will be traveling to five cities around Idaho in early October to update tourism business leaders on current happenings affecting the industry. This year's program will focus on sales and marketing issues with special emphasis on use of the Web to generate sales and encourage customer loyalty.

No such thing as a FREE LUNCH? Sure there is. All you have to do is register in advance by calling Tina Caviness, 208-334-2470 or e-mail [tcavines@idoc.state.id.us](mailto:tcavines@idoc.state.id.us).

Information on Tourism Tour 2003 is also available online at [www.idoc.state.id.us/trvdiv/workshops.html](http://www.idoc.state.id.us/trvdiv/workshops.html).

If you do not register in advance, you'll be on your own for lunch!

Time is 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at all locations:

**Thursday, Oct. 2,** Salmon Rapids Lodge, Riggins.

**Friday, Oct. 3,** Nampa Civic Center.

**Tuesday, Oct. 7,** Templins Resort, Post Falls.

**Wednesday, Oct. 8,** WestCoast Hotel, Idaho Falls.

**Thursday, Oct. 9,** Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley.

## IRP BOARD MEMBERS

**STEVE ALLRED** — Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
**KENT BAILEY** — Idaho State Senate, Hayden  
**PAT BARCLAY** — Idaho Council of Industry & Environment  
**K. LYNN BENNETT** — U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
**NANCY BERGMANN** — Bechtel BWXT - INEEL  
**SKIP BRANDT** — Idaho State Senate, Kooskia  
**TRENT CLARK** — Monsanto, Soda Springs  
**DAVE EKERN** — Idaho Department of Transportation  
**MIKE FIELD** — U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development  
**WAYNE HAMMON** — U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency  
**KEN HARWARD** — Association of Idaho Cities  
**JOE HERRING** — Region IV Development Association  
**CONNIE HOGLAND** — U.S. Housing & Urban Development  
**LAMOYNE HYDE** — Idaho Department of Commerce  
**DOUGLAS JONES** — Idaho House of Representatives, Filer  
**KAY KIDDER** — Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai  
**CLAY LARKIN** — Mayor, Post Falls  
**ROGER MADSEN** — Idaho Department of Labor  
**LORRAINE ROACH** — The Hingston Roach Group, Grangeville  
**KATHY RUFFALO** — Office Of The Governor  
**DEVAUGHN SHIPLEY** — Idaho Association of Counties, Blackfoot  
**HARTY & MARJORIE SCHMAEHL** — Hearthstone Bakery/Tea House, Kamiah  
**MARY LOU SHEPHERD** — Idaho House of Representatives, Wallace  
**DICK SMITH** — U.S. Forest Service  
**PATRICK TAKASUGI** — Idaho Department of Agriculture  
**ASHLEY & KATRIN THOMPSON** — The Ashley Inn, Cascade  
**RICK TROMBLEY** — Economic Development Administration  
**JOSE VALDEZ** — Casa Valdez, Caldwell  
**JIM WERTZ** — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**DAVID ZWERNEMAN** — Resource Conservation & Development Organizations

## NEW IRP CO-CHAIR

IRP's co-chairs are in place and have hit the ground running. Co-Chair Trent Clark of Monsanto has been joined by LaMoyné Hyde of Idaho Falls. Hyde is the Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce. Hyde is owner, operator and developer of Hyde Drift Boats, a multimillion dollar international company based in Idaho Falls. His companies also include Hyde Water Conditioning, Hyde Outfitters, the Last Chance Lodge and Restaurant in Island Park and two fly fishing shops in eastern Idaho. Hyde has also served on the Idaho Travel Council, Governor's Economic Advisory Council, Eastern Idaho Economic Council and the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce. Hyde has also been active in community, social and outdoor organizations in the Idaho Falls area. Special thanks to Karl Tueller for his efforts at IRP in the interim.



LaMoyné Hyde

## IRP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To guide IRP activities the Board has established a number of standing committees and will use working groups as the need arises. **Standing IRP Committees** include Economic Development, Education (*with a short term focus on youth entrepreneurial skills and long term on workforce development*), Environmental, Finance / Funding, Leadership Training and Policy Development. **IRP Working Groups** will be created as needed and the first is IRP Outreach (*with a focus on creating the 'One Stop Shop' through communications and website/directory development*). IRP is actively seeking volunteers to serve on these standing committees and working groups. If you are interested please send your contact information to IRP Executive Director Sara Braasch at any time at 208/334-3131 or [sbraasch@irp.state.id.us](mailto:sbraasch@irp.state.id.us).

## EMMETT COMMUNITY REVIEW

The latest Community Review was held in Emmett on May 20-21 and they chose to focus in on infrastructure, land use & community design, civic life & community involvement. The Idaho Community Review is a collaborative project of the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Rural Partnership, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Idaho Housing & Finance Association, Boise State University, Mountain States Group, and the Idaho Department of Commerce. Its mission is to efficiently and effectively provide the host community with objective information from external community development professionals, create a forum to express internal leadership viewpoints and citizen feedback, recommend resources, and provide follow-up as needed. To date, community reviews have occurred in the following Idaho communities - Heyburn, Jerome, Hayden, Kooskia, Priest River, Weiser, Buhl and Emmett. If you are interested in learning more or applying go to [www.idahocities.org](http://www.idahocities.org) and click on the Idaho Community Review link.

## RURAL E-COMMERCE SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

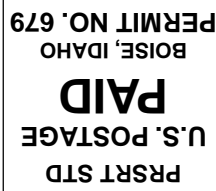
Idaho rural e-commerce success stories are needed to inspire all rural Idahoans as to how they might benefit from using the Internet, and rural broadband, in particular. A USDA grant in partnership with the Idaho State University Special Programs Office and Lone Eagle Consulting is supporting the creation of a collection of these success stories for statewide distribution. Those contributing success stories will receive a final copy of the full collection along with other key resources in appreciation for making the effort to share. Please send your e-commerce success stories to Frank Odasz, Lone Eagle Consulting via e-mail: [frank@lone-eagles.com](mailto:frank@lone-eagles.com). If you have questions call 406/683-6270 or log on to <http://lone-eagles.com>.



# Upcoming Events

Please notify us if you have an upcoming event you would like listed and we'll include it on a space available basis.

- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1** Governor's Conference on Air Quality in the Treasure Valley, Nampa Civic Center. Sponsored by Idaho Council on Industry & the Environment and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, details at [www.getf.org/pp2ca](http://www.getf.org/pp2ca).
- Oct. 2 - 3** Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy Advisory Committee Meeting, Portland, endorsed by IRP. Details at [www.inlandnwregion.org](http://www.inlandnwregion.org).
- Oct. 6 - 8** Governor's Conference on Housing, Boise Centre on the Grove (IRP panel from 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>). Sponsored by the Idaho Housing & Finance Association. Details at [www.2003govconf.org](http://www.2003govconf.org).
- Oct. 28** Fundraising Strategies, Community Development Workshop Series, Moscow. Details at (208) 883-2890 or [www.thehudsonco.com/intro.htm](http://www.thehudsonco.com/intro.htm).
- Nov. 12** Regional Economic Summit for North Central Idaho and southeastern Washington, Lewiston, endorsed by IRP. Details at Clearwater Economic Development Association at (208) 746-0015.
- Nov. 18** Noon – 5:00 p.m., IRP and Idaho Economic Development Association Board meetings, Coeur d'Alene.
- Nov. 18 - 19** Idaho Rural Summit, Coeur d'Alene. Details at (208) 334-3131 or [www.idahosbdc.org](http://www.idahosbdc.org).
- Nov. 19 - 21** Connect Idaho Conference, Coeur d'Alene. Details at [www.idahosbdc.org](http://www.idahosbdc.org).



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